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District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ILLEGAL ALIEN "BORDER BANDIT" SENTENCED TO 21 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM.

TUCSON, Ariz. – Jose Domingo Valdez-Alvarez, 42 years old, of Sinaloa, Mexico, was sentenced here Monday to twenty-one months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Frank R. Zapata. Valdez-Alvarez had pleaded guilty on June 20, 2006 to the charge of Illegal Alien in Possession of a Firearm.

In the course of his guilty plea, Valdez-Alvarez admitted the following facts: On March 30, 2006, Valdez-Alvarez possessed a Smith & Wesson 38 special revolver, loaded with six rounds of ammunition. He positioned himself near the border road on the United States side of the International Boundary between Mexico and the United States in the area of Vamori Gate. He was wearing dark clothing and a mask over his face. He admitted that he positioned himself in that particular area in order to rob illegal aliens that were attempting to make entry into the United States in that location. Just before Valdez-Alvarez was apprehended by law enforcement, there was a group of people headed northbound into the United States, and it was his intent to rob that particular group. Valdez-Alvarez also admitted that the money that was found in his possession at the time he was apprehended was all taken from illegal aliens that had crossed the border earlier that day. Further, Valdez-Alvarez is a citizen of Mexico with no legal authorization to be present in the United States, nor to possess a firearm within the United States.

The investigation in this case was jointly conducted by the United States Border Patrol and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution was handled by Jennifer J. Maldonado, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-00808-TUC-FRZ
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